

## **TOWN OF ELLINGTON**

### **REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2004**

**Members Present:** Robert J. Clements, Mark A. Joyse, Robert K. Pagani, Barry C. Pinto (arr. 9 pm), John P. Rachek

**Members Absent:** Vaughn E. Gerber

**Others Present:** N. DiCorleto-Fin Officer, D. Milanovich-First Sel., D. Roberson-Chmn BOE, P. Charter-Selectman, C. Pippin-Chief CLFD, Members of Crystal Lake Fire Dept, Journal Inquirer Reporter.

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm.

#### **Election of Chairman**

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (RACHEK) TO NOMINATE ROBERT PAGANI AS CHAIRMAN BOARD OF FINANCE.**

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS.**

**VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS TO ELECT ROBERT PAGANI AS CHAIRMAN.**

#### **Citizens Forum**

No one came forward. Mr. Pagani informed the Board that Mr. Gerber had surgery this week and was not able to be here tonight.

The First Selectman congratulated Mr. Pagani as new chairman of Board of Finance.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2004 AS WRITTEN. RACHEK ABSTAINED.**

#### **Financial Statements**

Mr. DiCorleto stated they would be ready at the end of the week.

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## **Additional Appropriations**

### Crystal Lake Fire Truck Repair

Chief Pippin told the Board that these funds were used to repair ET242 to make it road worthy and safe. This vehicle is a 1978 model and has 17,000 miles on it; it is the vehicle they are trying to replace.

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (RACHEK) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST OF THE CLFD FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$4,000 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO REPAIR ET 242.**

### Pinney House Architectural Study

Dale Roberson who is part of the Pinney House restoration committee explained the process to the Board. At this time they have sent letters to Congressman Simmons stating what they are trying to accomplish and asking for federal funds for the restoration and preservation of the Pinney House. It has significant historical representation in that the ancestor of the founder of Ellington built the house. What the committee is trying to accomplish is to move the house across the street and incorporate the structure into a new fire/public safety complex. They would like to engage Lawrence Associates to conduct a preliminary engineering study with regard to the historic preservation of the house. The owner, Eric Santini, is going to contribute \$25,000 to move it. It is estimated that it will cost about \$150,000 to move the structure and \$300,000 to \$500,000 for the preservation and restoration of the house after the move.

Mr. Clements stated his uneasiness to start contributing money toward this effort. He is afraid that when the Town starts putting funds toward this it will feel it cannot back away. The momentum may cost the Town lots of cash. He feels the Board of Finance is in a tough position in that they cut so much out of the operating budgets; it does not seem fair to fund this. Mr. Roberson feels the Town has the responsibility to preserve old structures that are historical to the town's establishment. The architectural study will let us know if it is feasible to continue with his effort.

Mr. Milanovich stated that the logic behind incorporating this into the fire complex is based on the assumption that the \$500,000 will be funded from sources other than the Town and when the Town's costs are added up, it leaves 3,000 sf of usable space for \$50/square foot which will ultimately reduce the cost of the total complex. He feels it is better to use the house than to leave it.

Mr. Joyse felt that funding the \$5,000 does not commit the Board to further funding but gives the Pinney House Committee the opportunity to see if this is feasible.

Mr. Clements asked why the house wasn't put through the Historical Register process. Mr. Roberson stated that it takes more time than the owner is giving the Town at this time. Mr. Pagani is hesitant of funding for this effort.

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL NEXT MONTH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION GATHERING.**

### **New Business**

#### **Crystal Lake Firehouse Furnace**

The Crystal Lake Fire Chief has requested that the balance in the Capital Improvements Account for breathing apparatus be used to purchase new furnaces for the firehouse. There are cracked blocks in the old furnaces. The new ones would be energy efficient and have warranties. The Finance Officer suggested that the funds come from undesignated fund balance and then the balance of the breathing apparatus item be transferred to undesignated fund balance at year end.

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE TAKING \$10,000 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO PURCHASE NEW FURNACES FOR CRYSTAL LAKE FIREHOUSE.**

#### **Approval to go out to bid for Equipment**

Mr. Wright of the Crystal Lake Fire Dept. presented a set of specifications that were approved by the Board of Selectmen for fire equipment to replace ET242. The bids are for purchase and lease/purchase options and are non-binding.

Mr. Pagani stated that this was the same vehicle that was cut from the budget this year. Mr. Clements asked when the first payment would have to be made. Mr. Wright stated that it wouldn't be until next budget year (9mos to a year).

Peter Charter stated that the Public Works Dept has four dump trucks that were purchased on a lease/purchase plan. He feels it is a safety issue. There are only a few members of the department that can drive this truck now. It takes 45 minutes to get water trucked in from another town at night.

Chief Pippin pointed out that the department only wants to get firm numbers and is not committing to purchasing anything at this time. They just want permission to go out to bid.

Mr. Pagani told them that he wants no proprietary bids. He was assured that it is very generic and not geared to one vendor.

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (RACHEK) AND PASSED TO GIVE THE CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT PERMISSION TO WORK WITH THE FINANCE OFFICER TO SOLICIT NON-BINDING BIDS FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT.**

### **Old Business**

Mr. Pagani read a thank you note from the Housing Authority regarding the additional funding approved last month for the Snipsic Village renovation.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PAGANI) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:30 PM.**

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Smith, Clerk